

MEA Bargaining 2026-2027

Session #5

Monday, July 27, 2026

Those present: Pat Barber, Christina Britton, Willie Clark, Valerie Finnegan, Silvana Ianinska, Derek Jensen, Julie Kerber, Helen King, Rob Lyons, Mitcheal Pearl, Bruce Proud, Sharon Scarbrough, Rachel Sellers, Jon Syre, Evelyn Townsley, Mark West, and Mercedes Wildman.

Meeting began at 5:15 p.m.

Mark West (MW) – Reviewed the minutes from the last two. Did not go through all the minutes. We haven't had a whole lot of time since our last meeting. With regard to ESE Case Managers. Everyone is to have their own designated planning time. Did want everyone to know that we did follow up. Any questions or comments?

Bruce Proud (BP) – They confirmed that they are using nap time as planning time. Not very productive and sounds pretty sketchy. Obviously not receiving planning time.

MW – Are the Paras able to be left alone in the room during nap time.

Christina Britton (CB) – In theory, yes, para should be able to stay in the room alone. There is someone there too. Not saying it is happening, saying it should. If we need to define this for principals that have VPKs we have no problem providing that verification. EPK and IPK don't have a specified 50 minute planning time but do complete their IEP during planning while children nap. Christina read Mr. Bennet's summary about the ESE teachers who are expected to complete their IEP's during nap time.

CB - If the Para is there the teacher should be able to leave to find a quite place to do their work. We have no problem providing that time.

BP – I can write language.

MW – Next issue for follow up on an clarify. The TSIA we would like that language to go out next week during the pre-school planning week. Sept 1st will be the deadline to submit eligibility. We did follow up along those lines. With regard to Health Insurance for teachers and paras who have met their thresholds.

CB – We were able to get numbers, but no broken out by union code. Process of moving over to FLEET and we are in transition. Right now, all I have is the levels (number of people ME1, ME3), but can get those numbers.

MW – Wanted to bring forward the referendum dollars. Rachel, please hand out the referendum numbers. We are showing on the actual document. This is a recap and we are showing on the document with the tax collector not taking out the 2%.

BP – We have that.

RS - Confirmation that we have the statute but have not received confirmation and are making an assumption based on the statute.

MW - Even with those numbers added back in, we would still be a little short. Looking to maintain the amounts – same as last year. Proposing that we allocate those dollars for distributions we have in the past so teachers will start receiving those funds in the August 21st paycheck and teachers and paras will receive it throughout 22 paychecks.

BP – Basically we would like to know when the 22 checks will be coming out so we can inform members.

RS – Have you not gotten the 26/27 cycle yet.

CB - That was just approved in cabinet.

RS – Yes, that was just approved in cabinet. We can get that to you.

Derek Jensen (DJ) - Starting on August 21st.

BP – Will you make the corrections on this document as well. Does this follow the same ...

PB – This is not the second check; it is the first check.

RS – Yes that's right.

BP – Do you want to make the changes before you copy and we sign off on the millage supplement analysis?

RS – Yes, ok.

CB - This says August 21st. It's being sent to you by Ivana S. Mine is attached to other info. The last day it would be paid out would be June 11th.

BP – Is there a reason that the additional time cost is about \$2 million more than last year?

RS – These are the numbers we have for this year. We take 96% of that number. For the teachers. When we gave you the numbers for that year.

BP – There has to be some data as to why this is so much more. (Cost of additional time)

RS – We'll have to get more data on that. We'll get you more data. Now you realize this fiscal year is different from last year. The cost of the time is relative to the cost of the staff.

BP – I understand that it would be based on an increase in salary. But it would also be based on additional people, as well.

RS – We'll have to follow up and send you that data.

MW – Anything else with regards to the Referendum

BP - I don't have anything else.

MW – We have an updated off (Distributed by Rachel) This has been updated. We had some errors on our last proposal. We did have some discussions regarding the Para Salary Schedule. HR ran some numbers in regard to Salary schedules. Just with the two salary schedules and the step advance we realized we didn't want to do that. We are backing up to the step advancement and the set amount across the board. (\$0.21). Clarification of previous offer that stands at \$5,966,335 total for teachers and paras. We did hear your request about wanting to go back and review the budget. We heard your concern about that. We did not have an opportunity to go back to the board to discuss that. We are willing to work with you on how to disperse that, however, that is all we have the authority to move forward with.

BP – So this proposal is basically the same as your previous proposal?

MW – Correct. With a correction on the total number, we have to put forth.

BP - Alright we'll take a caucus.

Caucus 5:51 p.m.

Reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

BP – Thanks for the time. We have reviewed the numbers in your spreadsheet. I think we are in the same position we were in last session. Because of where we are with your proposal and Health Insurance increase and out-of-pocket plan increase, we are unable to accept. Don't know that we need to provide another proposal. If you think there is merit in going back to management let us know.

MW – Ok. A quick question about the referendum. Are you amenable to

BP – Once we have the additional data we will let you know. In the past we received more information. Carry overs. I believe we need to see the data especially for the need for \$2 million more.

MW – We will provide that to you. So let me address the issue then. I do feel like... We had three meetings last week and then today, have been back-to-back, and while we do notify the Board cursory things, we have not had a chance to meet with them. We would like to have a conversation with them. We have a meeting scheduled for next Monday and a meeting with the board on Tuesday. I don't want to waste your time. May I suggest we meet next week after we have a chance to speak with the board. I believe we have the 5th and the 6th available. Either one of those days.

VF - Those are teacher workdays.

PB – Poled the MEA team for availability. 5 PM works on August 5th.

CB – So 5th at 5 PM Room TBD

BP – We will not meet Monday the 3rd.

Adjourned 7:05 p.m.